REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of claim 8, which the Office Action indicates as being allowable, and claim 11 is amended to include the limitations of claim 17, which the Office Action indicates as being allowable. The limitations of intervening claim 12 (from which claim 17 depended) are not included in amended claim 11 because claim 17, having limitations similar to those of claim 8, is understood to be allowable without the limitations of claim 12.

New claims 20-22 are added to claim the invention in alternative language. The new claims are understood to be patentable because the prior art does not suggest the combination of limitations. Specifically, new claim 20 is directed to an integrated circuit. The integrated circuit includes programmable fabric circuitry, a processor core, a plurality of configurable transceivers, and a plurality of signal paths. The programmable fabric circuitry includes a plurality of configuration memory cells that are programmable to implement a circuit in the programmable fabric circuitry. The processor core is disposed on the integrated circuit and is configurable to couple to the processor core. The plurality of configurable transceivers is located at the periphery of the programmable fabric, and each configurable transceiver includes a configurable serializer and a configurable deserializer coupled to at least one of the configuration memory cells. Each serializer is configurable to transmit data at one of at least two bit rates, and each deserializer is configurable to receive data at one of at least two bit rates. The plurality of signal paths couple at least one of the configurable transceivers to the processor core, and at least a portion of each of the signal paths passes through the programmable fabric. This combination of limitations is not suggested by the cited prior art, and therefore, the new claims are thought to be allowable.

Claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-22 remain for consideration. All claims are thought to be allowable over the cited art.

The Office Action does not establish that claims 1, 9, 11, 12 and 18 are anticipated by US patent 5,701,091 to Kean ("Kean") under 35 USC §102(b). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the Office Action does not show that all the limitations of the claims are taught by Kean. However, independent claims 1 and 11

are amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 8 and 17, respectively. Therefore, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

The Office Action does not establish that claims 2-5, 13 and 14 are unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Kean in view of "Plants" (U.S. patent 6,237,124 to Plants). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the Office Action fails to show that all the limitations are suggested by the Kean-Plants combination. However, the independent claims 1 and 11 are amended, and the rejection of claims 2-5, 13 and 14 over the Kean-Plants combination is now moot. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action fails to show that the various configurable components set forth in the dependent claims 2-5, 13, and 14 are suggested by the Kean-Plants combination. For example, claim 2 includes limitations of one of said components is a cyclic redundancy code generator. As depending from claim 1, the cyclic redundancy code generator of claim 2 is configured by the plurality of configuration memory cells. It is respectfully submitted that the cited prior art neither teaches nor suggests the configuring of a cyclic redundancy code generator in a transceiver by the configuration memory cells. Plants does not appear to suggest any configuration capability for his CRC. Thus, the limitations of claim 2 are not shown to be suggested by the prior art.

The Office Action is similarly deficient in the rejecting claims 3-5, 13, and 14. That is, the claimed components are configurable, and the Office Action fails to show that the cited teachings of the Kean-Plants combination teaches these limitations.

The rejection of claims 2-5, 13, and 14 over the Kean-Plants combination should be withdrawn because the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The Office Action does not establish that claims 6 and 15 are unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) over the Kean-Plants combination , as applied to claims 5 and 10 above, and further in view of "Schneider" (U.S. patent 6,594,275 to Schneider). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the Office Action fails to show that all the limitations are suggested by the references and fails to provide a proper motivation for modifying the teachings of the Kean-Plants combination with teachings of

Schneider. However, claims 1 and 11, from which claims 6 and 15 depend, are amended and the rejection is now moot.

Nonetheless, it is noted that the Office Action fails to show that the Kean-Plants-Schneider combination teaches the claim 6 limitations of a configurable comma detection function. Schneider teaches a comma detector, but there is no apparent suggestion that the Schneider's comma detector is configurable as claimed. Furthermore, the alleged motivation for modifying the Kean-Plants combination with Schneider is conclusory and improper. The alleged motivation simply states a general objective, "to improve the data conversion processing performance." There is no evidence presented that demonstrates that this objective suggests the specifically claimed combination of claim limitations that include the configurable comma detection function.

Claim 15 includes similar limitations and is not shown to be unpatentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

The rejection of claims 6 and 15 should be withdrawn because the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The Office Action fails to establish that claims 7 and 16 are unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) over Kean in view of "Hausman" (U.S. patent 5,872,920 to Hausman et al.). The rejection is respectfully traversed because the Office Action fails to show that all the limitations are suggested by the references and fails to provide a proper motivation for modifying the teachings of Kean with teachings of Hausman. However, claims 1 and 11, from which claims 7 and 16 depend, are amended and the rejection is now moot.

Nonetheless, it is noted that the Office Action fails to show that the Kean-Hausman combination teaches the claim 7 limitations of one of said components being an elastic buffer. A buffer is shown by Hausman. However, there is no apparent suggestion in the cited teachings that Hausman's buffer is elastic as claimed. An explanation is requested if the rejection is maintained as to the specific teachings of Hausman thought to correspond to Hausmans' buffer being elastic.

The alleged motivation for modifying Kean with Hausman is conclusory and improper. The alleged motivation simply states a general objective, "so that data

overflow issue is improved." There is no evidence presented that demonstrates that this objective suggests the specifically claimed combination of claim limitations that include the elastic buffer.
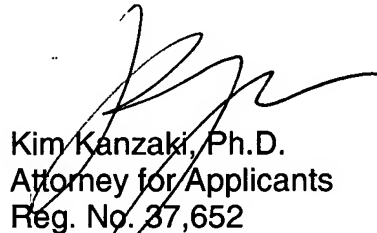
Claim 16 includes similar limitations and is not shown to be unpatentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

The rejection of claims 7 and 16 should be withdrawn because the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.
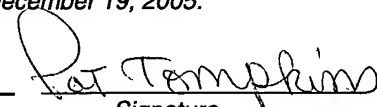
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on December 19, 2005.

__Pat Tompkins__
Name

Signature